45%. The process of utilising such high ash coal would affect the ambient air and ground water quality due to emission of fly ash and its disposal problems. This can be controlled by installing high efficiency electrostatic precipitators and by utilising fly ash for the manufacturing of bricks etc.

Rajasthan State Development Investment Corporation Ltd. (RSDICO) has been entrusted with the work of identifying entrepreneurs for establishing brick making projects utilising fly ash in Rajasthan. Action has been initiated for use of fly ash bricks for public works within a radius of 100 kms. of Kota Thermal Power Station.

All thermal power plants have been directed to comply with the prescribed standards on a time-bound basis. Besides, while issuing clearance to new plants Government stipulates a green belt to be provided around the power plant to check the fugitive emissions and continuous monitoring of air and water quality by the units concerned. Further, they are required to prepare and comply with a fly ash utilisation programme. Newer plants are required to comply with fly ash utilisation to the maximum extent possible.

(e) The action taken against coal companies supplying high ash, low quality coal to prevent environmental degradation include the following :

(i) Government has sanctioned three projects for setting up of non-coking coal washeries at Bina (Singrauli Coal fields), Piparwar (North Karanpura Coal Field) and Kalinga (Talcher Coal Field).

(ii) Coal India have called for promotion of private entrepreneurs both Indian as well as foreign through global tender for setting up of non-coking coal washeries under Build-own-operate basis.

(iii) Steps have been initiated for checking quality control of coal despatches through controller's field units.

Neem Trees

2179. SHRI PERMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be please to state :

(a) what are the invironment friendly properties of Neem Trees;

(b) whether any weightage has been given to the planting of Neem trees in the afforestation programme/requirements ;

(c) if so, the guidelines thereof and the actual progress in the planting of Neem trees during the past three years; and

(d) if not, why, considering the varied environment friendly and medicinal properties of the Neem trees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) In addition to ameliorating the environment by acting as carban dioxide sinks and controlling soil erosion, Neem trees provide safe alternative to synthetic chemicals. Bio-pesticides developed from Neem are environment friendly due to their biological origin and easy degradibility. Being broad spectrum in nature, they reduced the chances of pest becoming resistant.

(b) to (d) Plantation of Neem tree is being take up by State Governments and Union Territory Administrations under miscellaneous plantations and also as avenue tree. In addition, there is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Minor forest Produce including Medicinal Plants under National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board (NAEB) in the Ministry of Environment and Forests which includes Neem as a species to be planted in the mixed plantations under the scheme. However, specie-wise figures of trees planted under these various programmes is not collected.

Notification of "Kath" in Appendix I of C.I.T.E.S.

2180. SHRI SUSHIL BARONGPA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTES be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Quastion 94 given in the Rajya Sabha on 8th December, 1993 and state;

(a) whether the Kath of Cultivated Origin is placed in Appendix I of CITES as per new Notification; vide Public Notice No. 47/PN/92—97, dated 30th March, 1994; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) No Sir. As per CITES guidelines the cultivated variety of an Appendix-I species is automatically deemed to be under Appendix-II for the purpose of international trade. So Kuth of cultivated origin is dealt with as an Appendix II species for purposes of CITES. The Notification No. 47 (PN)/92—97 dated 30th March, 1994 prohibits the export of the listed 46 species of plants, plant portions and their derivatives obtained from the wild.